the duty free Generalised System of Preference accorded to Indan pharmaceuticals imported into the United States;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Indian Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the issue has been taken up with the US Government; and

(d) if so, what is its response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) On the 29th of April the United States Government, in two separate actions:

(a) redesignated India as a priority foreign country under Special 301, and

(b) suspended duty free GSP treatment to 60 million dollars worth of Indian exports to the United States.

GSP treatment has been suspended mainly for pharmaceuticals, chemicals and allied products.

Government of India consider the US action untimely, unwarranted and unjustified. The views of Government of India have been conveyed to US officials. The US response is that the present decision could be reversed if India addresses US concerns on patent protection.

Pending proposals for development of tourism in Orissa

*206. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of proposals which are pending with the Central Government for the development of tourism in Orissa; and

(b) since when these proposals have been pending and what are the reasons for delay in their approval?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Out of the projects identified for Central financial assistance during 1991-92 only one proposal for the construction of Amenities Centre at Ratnagiri could not be sanctioned because of incomplete information from the State Government.

The State Government have been requested to furnish the requisite information.

Strike by Bank and Insurance Employees

*207. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Banking and Insurance institutions in the country went on a token strike on 30th April, 1992;

(b) if so, what issues were involved which led to the strike; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) A section of employees in the Banking and Insurance institutions observed strike on 30th April, 1992 to press their demand for grant of pension as third retirement benefit.

(c) The profits of all the public sector banks for the year 1990-91 (latest available) were Rs. 371 crores only. It is estimated that the cost of conceding the demand of the bank employees for pension as a 3rd retirement benefit will be Rs. 200 crores per annum. This will have serious adverse effect on the health of the banking industry. The Indian Banks